

## A4. The rabbit and the butcher

### *some / any*

One day a rabbit walked into the butcher's shop and asked the butcher, 'Do you have **any** carrots?'

The butcher replied, 'No, I'm sorry, sir, but this is a butchers' shop. We don't sell vegetables in here. Go to the greengrocer at the other end of the street. I'm sure he's got **some** carrots.'

The rabbit thanked the butcher and left the shop.

The next day the rabbit went into the butcher's shop again.

'Good morning! I'd like a lettuce and **some** carrots, please.'

'Look, I'm sorry, sir! I told you yesterday - we don't sell **any** vegetables in here, only meat.'

'OK, I see,' said the rabbit and left the shop.

On the third day, the rabbit walked into the shop again and said,

'Hello, could you give me **some** carrots and a cabbage, please?'

This time the butcher was very angry.

'I told you yesterday and the day before. We don't sell **any** vegetables in here. No carrots, no lettuce, no cabbage and no onions. Do you understand? The next time you come in here and ask for vegetables, I'm going to take a hammer and I'm going to nail your ears to the floor!'

The next day, the rabbit was in the butcher's shop again.

'Good morning!' he said. 'Do have **any** nails?'

'No,' said the butcher, 'I don't have **any** nails.'

'Do you have a hammer?' asked the rabbit.

'No, I don't,' the butcher replied.

'Good,' said the rabbit, 'Then can I have **some** carrots, please?'



### Grammar: *some* and *any*

In general, we usually use *some* in positive sentences and *any* in negative sentences and questions. (Note that there are other uses of these words.)

*He has **some** carrots.*

*He doesn't have **any** carrots*

*Do you have **any** carrots?*

With offers and requests with *would like* and *can I have*, we usually use *some*, not *any*.

*Would you like **some** carrots?*

*Can I have **some** carrots?*

### Write *some* or *any* in the spaces.

- Can I have \_\_\_\_\_ of your cherries, please?
- We don't have \_\_\_\_\_ food in the house.
- I'd like \_\_\_\_\_ salad and \_\_\_\_\_ rice with my meat, please.
- I'm sorry, but there aren't \_\_\_\_\_ letters for you here.
- I didn't eat \_\_\_\_\_ fruit or vegetables yesterday.
- Could you give me \_\_\_\_\_ more rice, please?
- I bought \_\_\_\_\_ nails from the hardware shop.
- I don't want \_\_\_\_\_ of those sausages, thank you.
- I don't speak \_\_\_\_\_ Chinese, but I speak \_\_\_\_\_ Japanese.
- I know \_\_\_\_\_ good places to eat near here.

### Vocabulary exercises

#### Which is the odd one out in these groups of words?

- |    |             |         |         |        |            |
|----|-------------|---------|---------|--------|------------|
| 1. | sell        | ask     | reply   | tell   | say        |
| 2. | sorry       | angry   | hungry  | sure   | very       |
| 3. | carrot      | cabbage | lettuce | hammer | onion      |
| 4. | greengrocer | bank    | butcher | baker  | ironmonger |

**Match the broken sentences**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 5. I want to buy some meat...            | A. angry with that boy.                               |
| 6. I'm going to hammer...                | B. some fruit and vegetables.                         |
| 7. I think the teacher is getting...     | C. tools, like nails and hammers, for example.        |
| 8. I thanked the man...                  | D. at the butcher's shop.                             |
| 9. In the ironmongers they sell...       | E. for his help.                                      |
| 10. I went to the greengrocers to buy... | F. this nail into the wall so I can put up a picture. |

**ANSWERS**